

Arthur Vernon Gahman

By Ellen Parrish

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Arthur Vernon Gahman was born on January 26, 1917 in Craigville, Wells County, Indiana. After he finished high school, he took a six-week course at Purdue that mainly centered around testing and showing cows. This allowed him to show cows as a hobby, until he took up farming, a trade he had learned from his father before him, Martin Allen Gahman. Arthur was mainly a grain farmer, but he also grew tomatoes and had livestock such as cattle and pigs. During WWII, he filled out an enlistment form, but was then deferred because he could support the war effort at home by being a farmer and growing crops for soldiers.

Arthur was very involved in the church, and met his wife to be, Martha Harris, while attending a service one morning at Craigville United Brethren. They then married in that church on October 29, 1946, and had five children named Ruth, Joann "Jo", Donna, Chris, and Tina. Arthur also taught his children about farming on their 60 acre property, but eventually times got harder and it was difficult to find and maintain a job to support a family of seven. Arthur first took up a job at Franklin, but was then laid off. After this, he sought work everywhere he could look, until finally he found a job in Marion at Bell Fiber. This occupation mainly called for him to construct boxes because it was a paper and cardboard company. However, after working third shift one night, Arthur fell asleep at the wheel while driving home and veered into a ditch in 1958. Luckily, a nurse found him while coming off work herself, and Arthur was unharmed. After this he decided to no longer work in Marion and was then able to get his job back at Franklin Electric. These jobs allowed him to maintain a better standard of living for his family, and also for him to maintain his farming job when it became costly.

Other than financial hardships, Arthur also faced a dilemma one day while working with his corn picker. He was wearing a worn down jacket, and while cleaning out the corn picker, it spurred to life and he got his arm sucked down into the machine. This crushed his hand, so when Arthur did arrive at the hospital, the staff had to

perform many surgeries to implant two rods into his arm. After that was solved, Arthur also received multiple skin grafts and the circulation and total use of his arm was not completely as functional as it used to be. Even after all of this, though, Arthur maintained a positive outlook. It was noticed that when recalling this accident he would say that "angels were watching over him."

A few accomplishments that Arthur had were being able up to stand on his head up into his late 70's, taking two wires and being able to find underground tiles and water, and always being able to spot four-leaf clovers. Arthur also had a high church involvement and was a Sunday School teacher with his wife at Craigville United Bretheren. In Arthur's later years, he would purchase Bibles at garage sales and flea markets, passing them out and around town as his way of witnessing. Also when nearing his later years, Arthur could no longer work at Franklin and became a Walmart greeter in Bluffton. Arthur also had a fondness to sunflowers, and one day when going out to check and water his garden, he fell down the steps leading outside and broke his hip and parts of his back, paralyzing him. This was too much for him to recover from, and he died on September 2, 2009. He is now buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Craigville, Indiana, sharing a headstone with his wife Martha.

Bibliography

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